

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. A suggestion has been made to perhaps show Going UpRiver after or before your film. That would be at least fair and would soften any claims of political or campaign violations. In any event, it is a reasonable suggestion. In the interest of fairness, I urge you to do whatever is in your powers to prevent this meddling in what has been a very informative process so far.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.